

MAY 3, 2005 BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION

Campaign Finance Act Requirements for Candidates

A candidate who seeks a school board position in a school district with a pupil enrollment count of 2,401 or more is subject to the filing requirements of the Act.

A candidate who seeks a school board position in a school district with a pupil enrollment count of 2,400 or less (Armada, New Haven, Richmond, and South Lake districts) is not subject to the filing requirements of the Act as long as he or she does not spend or receive more than \$1,000.00 for the election.

Candidates must form and register a Candidate Committee even if he or she uses personal funds to campaign, does not receive or spend any funds when seeking office, or is running a write-in campaign. An individual becomes a candidate through, but not limited to, the following actions:

- filing a nominating petition or filing fee for an elective office
- accepting a contribution in an attempt to be nominated or elected to office
- making an expenditure in an attempt to be nominated or elected to office
- giving consent to someone else to receive a contribution or make an expenditure in an attempt to be nominated or elected to office

As soon as a person becomes a “candidate”, he or she has **ten (10) calendar days to form a Candidate Committee**. After the committee’s formation date, the candidate has **ten (10) additional calendar days to register the committee with the Macomb County Election Department**. To register, the committee files a Statement of Organization.

A committee discloses its campaign finances on campaign statements. A committee that does not expect to receive or spend more than \$1,000.00 for any election can obtain a Reporting Waiver by checking Item #10 on its Statement of Organization. A committee that maintains a Reporting Waiver is exempt from filing campaign statements. Committees without a Reporting Waiver must file campaign statements according to the following schedule:

Pre-Election Campaign Statement

Close of Books – April 17

Statement Due – April 22

Post-Election Campaign Statement

Close of Books – May 23

Statement Due – June 2

Please note that the Campaign Finance Act imposes late filing fees for Statements of Organization and campaign statements that are filed late. The late filing fees are as follows:

Statement of Organization: \$10 per business day / \$300 Max

Campaign Statements: \$25 per business day / \$500 Max
(if committee raised \$10,000.00 or less during the previous 2 years)
\$25 - \$75 per business day / \$1,000 Max
(if committee raised more than \$10,000.00 during the previous 2 years)

This information is offered as a summary of the provisions that govern campaign finance disclosure; it is not complete. Copies of the Campaign Finance Act Candidate Committee Manual are available from the Macomb County Election Department and at www.macombcountymi.gov/clerksoffice. Please read the manual for further information relative to your obligations or call the Election Department at (586) 469-5209.